

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1-9 and add new claims 10-16 as set forth in the following listing of claims, which will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~the~~ breaking separation of at least one bearing cap (2) from a corresponding thrust block (4) in ~~the~~ a bearing assembly (6) of an engine ~~eases case~~ provided with bearing bores (8) ~~which are arranged in-line, in particular crankshaft cases for reciprocating piston engines~~ the method comprising the steps of,

~~in which method inserting~~ an extension mandrel (10) comprising two half-mandrels (12, 14) ~~is introduced~~ into at least one bearing bore (8)_i and

clamping said bearing cap between a corresponding half-mandrel and a fixing means to secure said bearing cap against rotation, while allowing said bearing cap to be freely movable to a limited degree in the direction of breaking separation, and

moving said half-mandrels (12, 14) ~~are moved~~ apart to produce a breaking separation force between said thrust block (4) and said bearing cap (2)_i.

~~characterized in that clamping said bearing cap (2) is clamped in such a way between a corresponding half mandrel (12) and a fixing means (22) as to be secured against rotation, though such as to be freely movable to a limited degree in the direction of breaking separation.~~
2. (Currently Amended) A device (1) ~~for the~~ configured to perform breaking separation of at least one bearing cap (2) from ~~said~~ a corresponding thrust block (4) in ~~the~~ a bearing assembly (6) of an engine ~~eases case~~ provided with bearing bores (8) ~~which are arranged in-line, in particular crankshaft cases for reciprocating piston engines,~~ comprising

an extension mandrel (10) ~~that can be inserted~~ insertable into at least one of said bearing bores (8) and ~~which~~ said extension mandrel has two half-mandrels (12, 14),

an expander (16) for moving said half-mandrels (12, 14) apart, said expander taking effect between said half-mandrels (12, 14),

~~characterized in that~~

at least two gripping means (18, 20) ~~are provided~~, said gripping means being couplable to said half-mandrel (12) corresponding to said at least one bearing cap, and

a fixing means (22) ~~is provided, said fixing means being securely~~ connected to said at least two gripping means (18, 20),

wherein said at least one bearing cap (2) being clampable between said corresponding half-mandrel (12) and said fixing means (22) ~~in such a way that~~ and a unit ~~consisting of~~ comprising said corresponding half-mandrel, (12) ~~with~~ said gripping means, (18, 20) ~~as well as~~ said fixing means (22) and said clamped bearing cap (2) is supported in a freely movable manner to a limited degree, though secured against rotation, in the direction of breaking separation.

3. (Currently Amended) A device in accordance with claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ said extension mandrel (10), in particular wherein said half-mandrel (12) corresponding to said bearing cap (2), comprises at least one recess (24) ~~and/or or~~ at least one projection engageable with ~~which~~ said gripping means (18, 20) ~~engage~~.
4. (Currently Amended) A device in accordance with claim 2 ~~or 3~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said half-mandrel (12) corresponding to said bearing cap (2) comprises, at its periphery on mutually facing sides, tangentially extending insertion slots (26) for said gripping means (18, 20), said slots being ~~preferably~~ in communication with said at least one recess (24).

5. (Currently Amended) A device in accordance with ~~any one of claims~~ claim 2 to 4, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ said at least one recess (24), when viewed in ~~an~~ the axial direction of said extension mandrel (10), is positioned axially adjacent to said insertion slots (26) in each case and merges into said slots.
6. (Currently Amended) A device in accordance with ~~any one of claims~~ claim 2 to 5, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ said gripping means (18, 20) are formed by a first and a second pincer, each of the first and the second pincers ~~that preferably each~~ comprise fixed jaws (28), said jaws having, at their ends, engagement members (30) facing towards one another.
7. (Currently Amended) A device in accordance with claim 6, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ said engagement members (30) engage with said at least one recess (24) within said half-mandrel (12) corresponding to said bearing cap (2) or engage behind said at least one projection.
8. (Currently Amended) A device in accordance with ~~any one of claims~~ claim 2 to 7, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ said fixing means (22) connected to said gripping means (18, 20) comprises at least one force-actuated detent (32).
9. (Currently Amended) A device in accordance with claim 8, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ at least two detents (32, 34) ~~that are spaced apart from one another are provided~~, said detents acting upon said bearing cap (2) ~~preferably~~ at that side which is opposite said corresponding half-mandrel (12).
10. (New) A device in accordance with claim 2, wherein the engine case comprises a crankshaft case for a reciprocating piston engine.
11. (New) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the engine case comprises a crankshaft case for a reciprocating piston engine.

12. (New) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein a peripheral portion of the said half mandrel corresponding to said bearing cap comprises tangentially extending insertion slots at mutually facing sides.
13. (New) A method in accordance with claim 12, wherein said half mandrel corresponding to said bearing cap further comprises at least one recess.
14. (New) A method in accordance with claim 13, wherein the step of clamping includes the step of placing the insertion slots in communication with the at least one recess.
15. (New) A method in accordance with claim 13, further comprising the step of traversing in a sliding manner over the corresponding half mandrel a gripping means.
16. (New) An engine formed in part by breaking separation of at least one bearing cap from a corresponding thrust block in a bearing assembly of an engine case provided with bearing bores arranged in-line, the breaking separation comprising steps of,

inserting an extension mandrel comprising two half-mandrels into at least one bearing bore,

clamping said bearing cap between a corresponding half-mandrel and a fixing means to secure said bearing cap against rotation, while allowing said bearing cap to be freely movable to a limited degree in the direction of breaking separation, and

moving said half-mandrels apart to produce a breaking separation force between said thrust block and said bearing cap.